

We claim as our invention:

1. A system for retrieving media assets of a motion picture comprising:

an archive comprising

a first plurality of media assets and a database,  
wherein each of said first plurality of media  
assets is stored at a corresponding location  
within an associated one of a second  
plurality of consolidated asset rolls,  
said database comprising at least one record for  
each of said first plurality of media  
assets,

the record associating the corresponding media  
asset, the corresponding location within the  
associated asset roll, and a first  
designation;

a second designation, substantially indicative of a  
portion of said motion picture

an interface, operatively connected to said database,  
responsive to said second designation to retrieve  
from said database a selectable portion of said  
at least one record for which said first  
designation substantially matches said second  
designation, said selectable portion including  
the corresponding location within the associated  
asset roll, thereby determining the corresponding  
location and asset roll for at least one  
resulting media asset substantially associated  
with said second designation;

whereby the resulting media asset can be efficiently

retrieved.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein first designation comprises scene designation;
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein first designation comprises take designation;
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein first designation comprises a set-up designation;
5. The system of Claim 1, wherein first designation comprises a camera designation;
6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the corresponding location is expressed as a timecode;
7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the corresponding location is expressed as a frame count;
8. The system of Claim 1, wherein said media assets comprise B-negative;
9. The system of Claim 1, wherein said media assets comprise trims;
10. The system of Claim 1, wherein said media assets comprise outs;
11. The system of Claim 1, wherein said media assets comprise mag;

12. The system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
a digital media repository, comprising at least one digital media file representative of at least one of said first plurality of media assets, and wherein said database further associates the media asset with the corresponding media file, and said interface further comprises a first digital media viewer, operably connected to said first digital media repository, such that the corresponding media file can be retrieved and displayed;  
whereby the media file representative of the resulting media asset can be viewed without retrieving the resulting media asset.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein:  
said digital media repository further comprises document images corresponding to a fourth plurality of documents;  
said database further comprises document records associating each of the document images with an associated third designation;  
said interface further comprising a document image viewer, and responsive to said second designation to retrieve from said digital media repository and display one of said document images indicated by a resulting one of the document records for which said third designation substantially matches said second designation;  
whereby document images associated with the resulting media asset can be viewed without retrieving the documents.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said fourth plurality

of documents comprise a lined script of said motion picture.

15. The system of Claim 13, wherein said fourth plurality of documents comprise script notes of said motion picture.

16. The system of Claim 13, wherein  
said interface further comprises document controls for navigating among document images, said document controls operating to select a different one of the document images and to update said second designation to equal said associated third designation;

whereby media assets can be selected by navigation among document images.

17. The system of Claim 12, wherein:  
each of the media assets represented by the media file has an offset within the media file,  
said database further associates the media asset and said offset within the corresponding media file,  
said first digital media viewer uses the associated offset to retrieve and display a portion of the media file pertinent to the media asset.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein:  
one of the consolidated asset rolls is digitized to provide a corresponding one of the media files,  
and  
the offset within the media file for each media asset in the asset roll is proportional to the corresponding location of the media asset within

the asset roll.

19. The system of Claim 17, wherein:

one of the media assets was previously transferred to a videotape by a telecine and is represented within said videotape at a first timecode, said videotape is digitized, beginning at a second timecode, to provide a corresponding one of the media files, the offset within the corresponding media file for the previously transferred media asset is proportional to the difference between the second timecode and the first timecode.

20. The system of Claim 12, wherein

said digital media repository further comprises a thumbnail image representative of the at least one media asset, said database further associating said thumbnail image with the media asset, said at least one record further comprising a reference to said thumbnail image, and said interface able to retrieve said thumbnail image from the digital media repository, to represent said media asset in said interface.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein

said interface responds to selection of said thumbnail image by causing said first digital media viewer to display the media asset.

22. The system of Claim 12, wherein

at least one digital media file comprising an edited version of said motion picture;  
said interface further comprising a second digital media viewer for displaying the media file of the edited motion picture, said second digital media viewer having playback controls for navigating within the edited motion picture;  
said second digital media viewer updating said second designation to correspond to the portion of said motion picture currently displayed by the second viewer;  
whereby the edited motion picture can be used to navigate the media assets.

23. The system of Claim 12, wherein  
at least one digital media file comprising an edited version of said motion picture;  
said interface further comprising a second digital media viewer for displaying the media file of the edited motion picture;  
said second digital media viewer responding to changes to said second designation by displayed portion of said motion picture indicated by the second designation;  
whereby the display of the edited motion picture relates to the resulting media asset.

24. The system of Claim 12, further comprising a first network disposed between said interface and said digital media repository.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein said first network comprises a secure LAN.

26. The system of Claim 25, further comprising a second network disposed between said interface and said database, wherein said second network comprises the Internet.

27. The system of Claim 24, wherein said first network comprises the Internet.

28. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a network disposed between said interface and said database.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein said network comprises a secure LAN.

30. The system of Claim 28, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

31. The system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
    a fifth plurality of containers for storing at least  
        one consolidated asset rolls, each container  
        having a unique container designation; and  
    wherein  
    said database further records the container  
        designation for the container in which each of  
        the consolidated asset rolls is stored, and  
    said interface indicates container designation  
        associated with said at least one resulting media  
        asset.

32. A method for accessing assets of a motion picture

comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a consolidated archive,
  - said consolidated archive comprising a first plurality of stored media assets and a database,
  - said first plurality of stored media assets having been acquired for said motion picture,
  - each of said first plurality of stored media assets having been created for an associated one of a second plurality of stored takes,
  - each of said first plurality of stored media assets being stored on an associated one of a third plurality of consolidated asset rolls and having a corresponding location therein,
  - said database, for each of said first plurality of stored media assets, relating said corresponding location in said associated one of said third plurality of consolidated asset rolls and said associated one of said second plurality of stored takes;
- (b) interrogating said database about a sought one of said second plurality of stored takes;
- (c) receiving a result comprising said corresponding location in said associated one of said third plurality of consolidated asset rolls of said sought one of said second plurality of stored takes from said database; and
- (d) indexing into at least one of said associated one of said third plurality of consolidated asset rolls to at least one said corresponding



location; thereby physically accessing at least one said first plurality of stored media assets related to said sought one of said second plurality of stored takes.